



Access to Justice for Incarcerated Parents in Washington State

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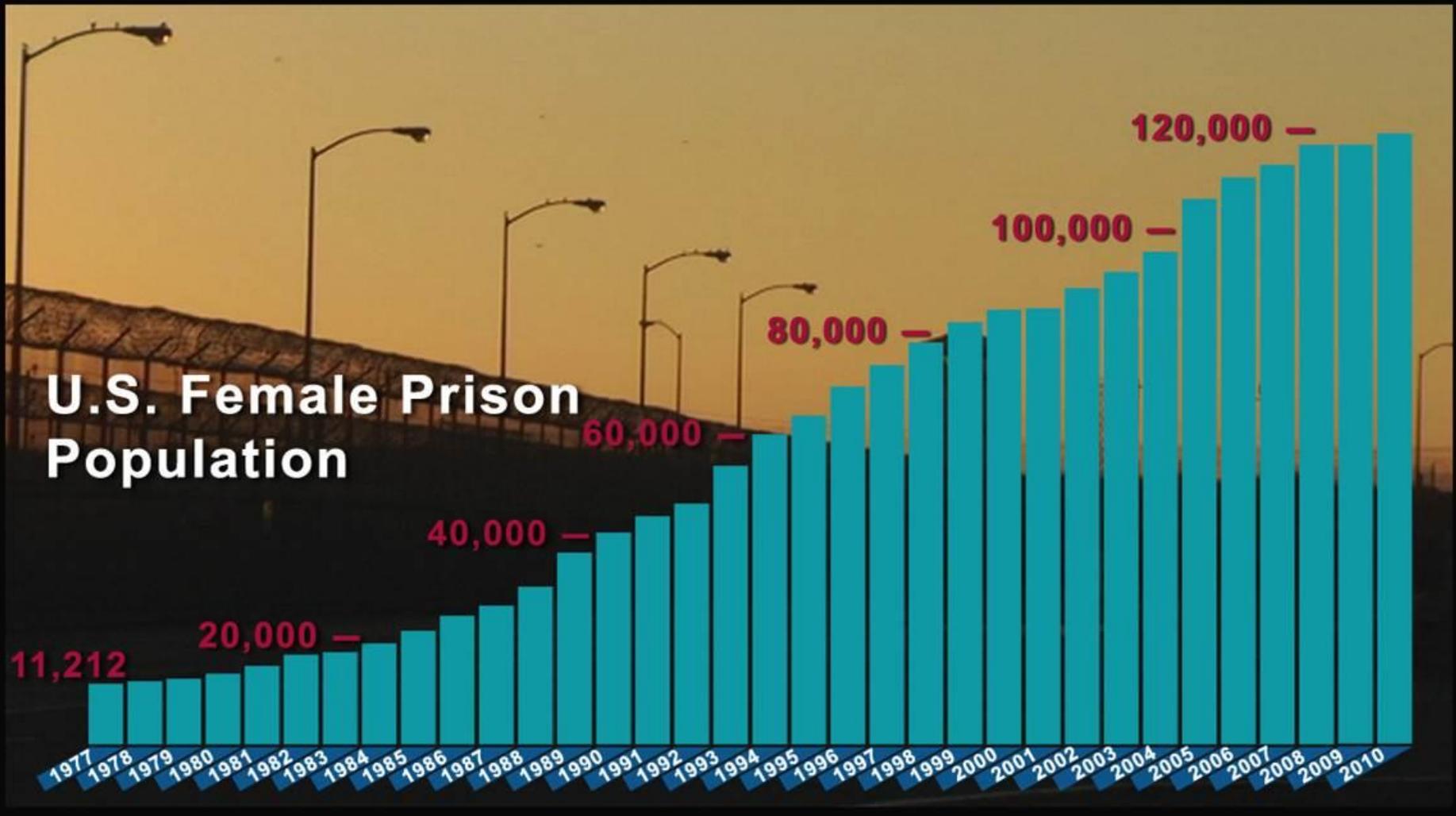


Collateral Consequences

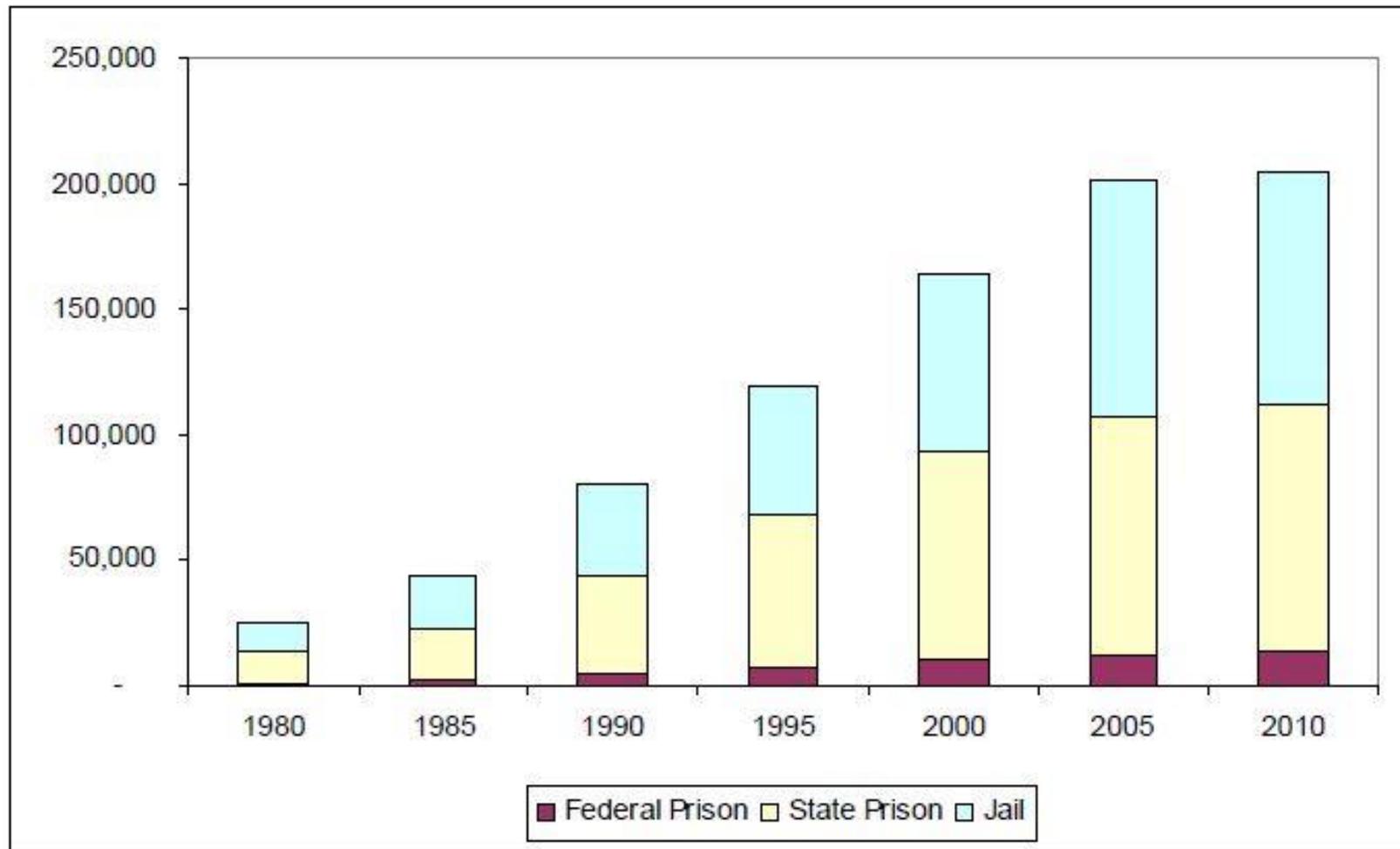


I live with my
grandma now.
it's not the same
as living with
my mom. 

The female prison population has risen 800% in the past 3 decades.



NUMBER OF INCARCERATED WOMEN, 1980-2010



Source: Beck, A., & Karberg, J. C. (2001). *Prison and jail inmates at midyear 2000*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Guerino, P., Harrison, P. M., & Sabol, W. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Who are we incarcerating?



“In short, the females flooding our criminal justice system are mostly young, poor, undereducated, women and girls of color with complex histories of trauma and addiction.”

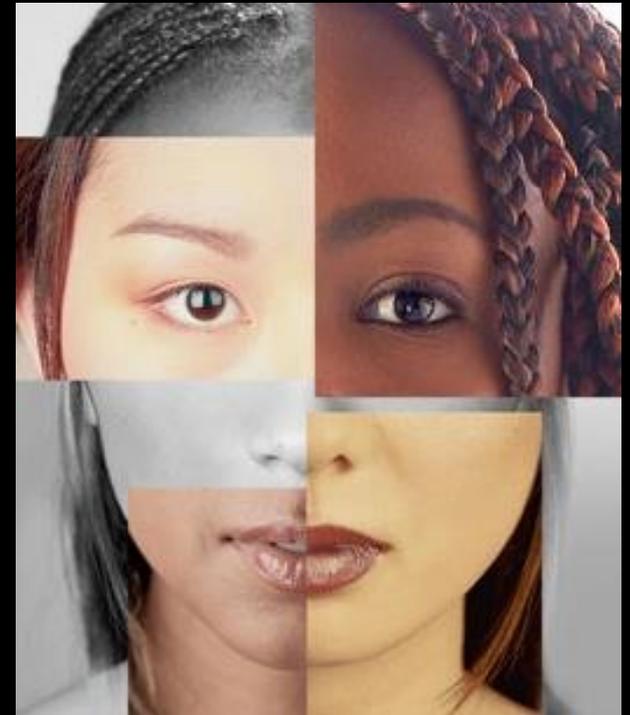
- Stephanie Covington, PhD., L.C.S.W.

“The Relational Theory of Women’s Psychological Development: Implications for the Criminal Justice System.”

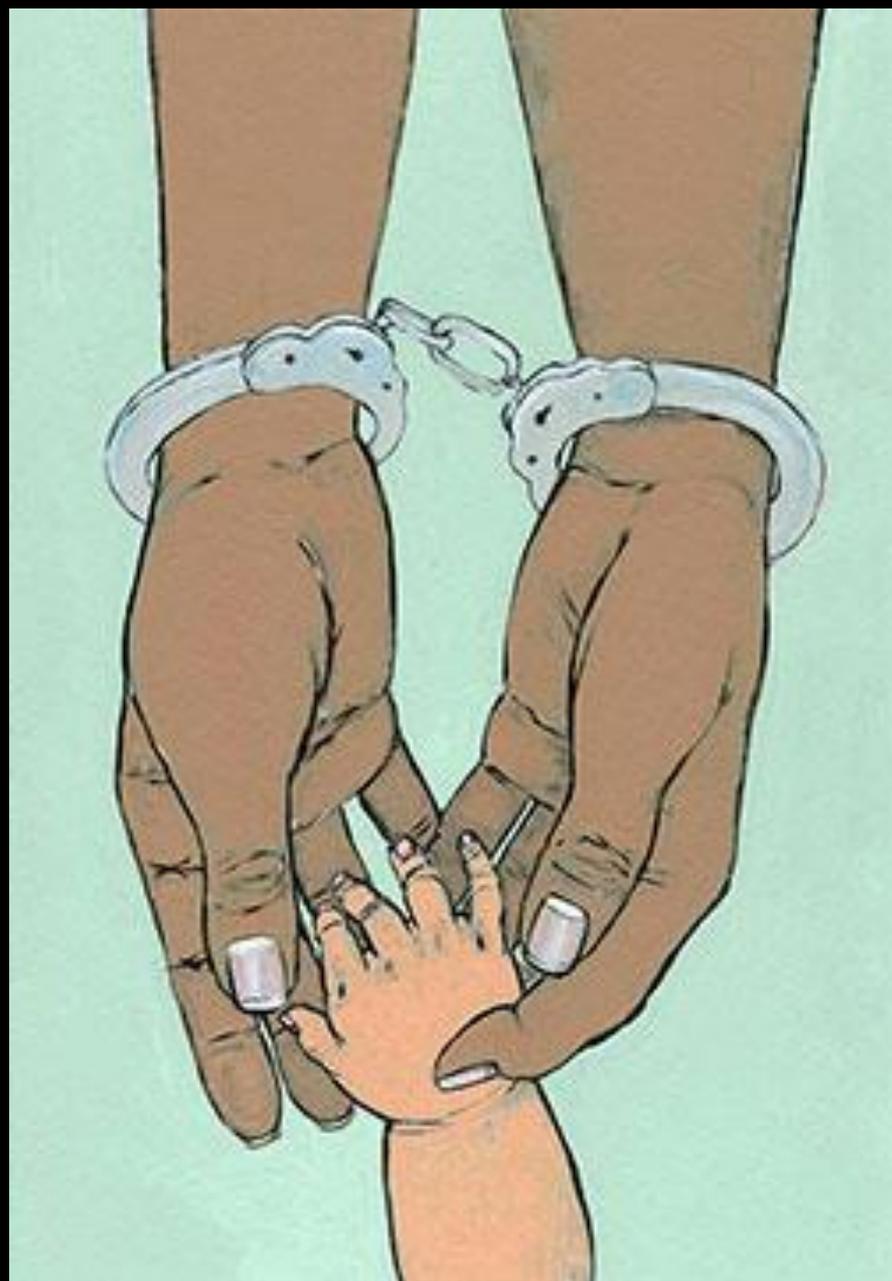
Race

As of 2003, the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment was:

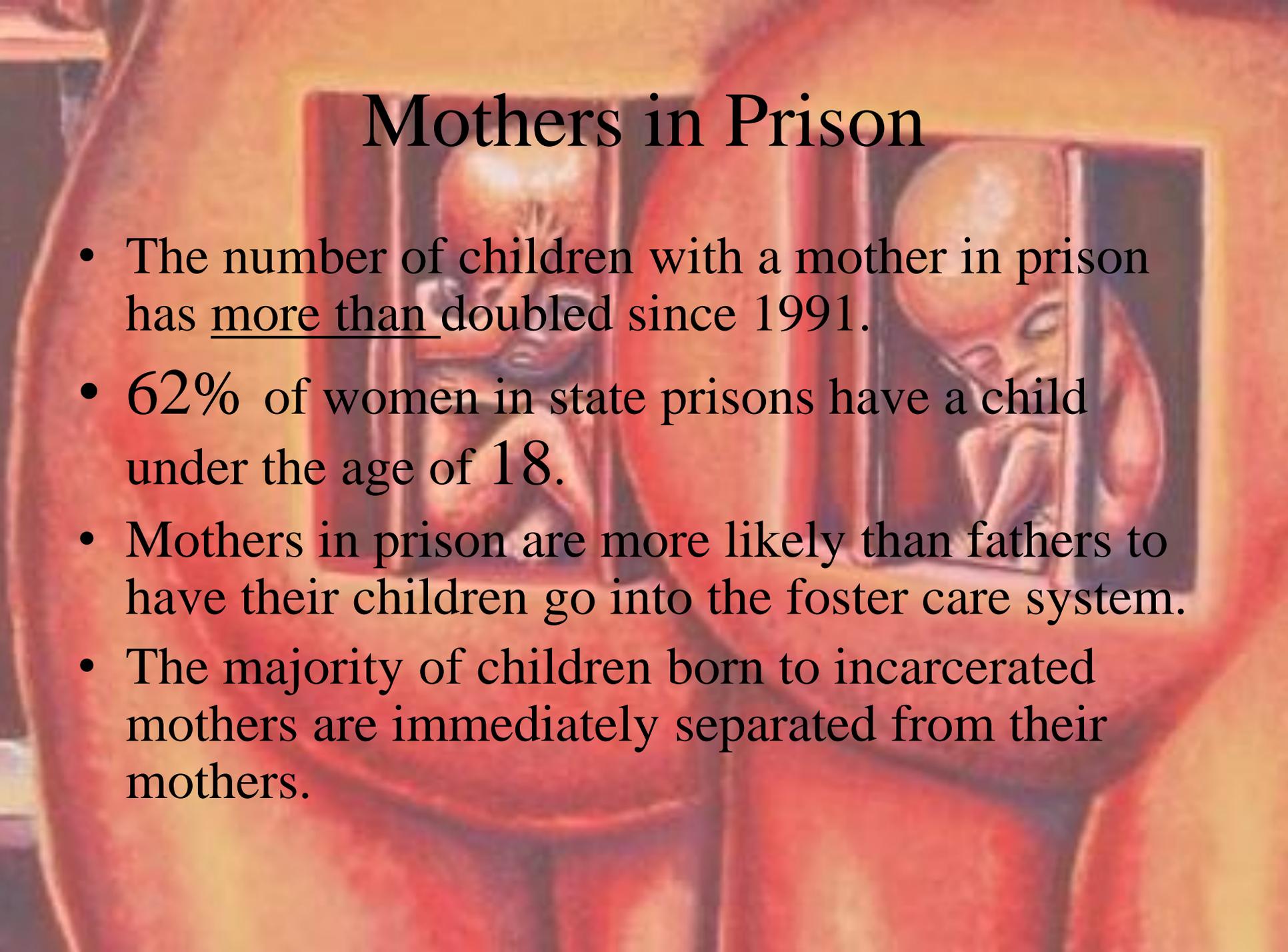
- 1 in 111 for white women
- 1 in 45 for Latina women
- 1 in 18 for black women



As many as 90% of incarcerated women are survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.



Mothers in Prison

A painting in a warm, reddish-orange color palette. It depicts a woman in a prison cell, looking out through the vertical bars. She is holding a young child. The scene is emotionally charged, with the woman's expression appearing one of longing or despair. The background is dark, suggesting the interior of the cell.

- The number of children with a mother in prison has more than doubled since 1991.
- 62% of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18.
- Mothers in prison are more likely than fathers to have their children go into the foster care system.
- The majority of children born to incarcerated mothers are immediately separated from their mothers.

Collateral Consequences

- No right to counsel for family law proceedings, even if those proceedings stemmed from a dependency.
- Uphill battle reuniting with children after they are declared “dependent” or a parent is declared “unfit.”
- Many parents face custody battles, unrepresented, against abusive former partners.



Possible Solutions



- Legal Kiosks with access to mandatory family law forms, statutes, WashingtonLawHelp, and caselaw.
- Gender-responsive and trauma-informed support for survivors that begins in prison and continues after release.